

AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS

The attached sheets of drawings includes changes to FIGS. 4, 5A, and 5B. These sheets, which include FIGS. 4, 5A, and 5B, replaces the original sheets including FIGS. 4, 5A, and 5B.

Attachment: Replacement Sheets

REMARKS

Reconsideration and allowance in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks are respectfully requested.

Upon entry of this Amendment, claims 8-12 and 14-20 will be pending in the present application. No claims have been newly added, and claims 1-7 and 13 have been canceled.

FIGS. 4, 5A, and 5B have been amended herewith to lighten the images. No new matter has been added. In addition to replacing FIGS. 4, 5A, and 5B, the remaining other figures have been replaced with clearer drawings. Accordingly, applicants respectfully request that the amendments to the figures be approved.

Claims 1 and 2 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,216,691 to Kenyon *et al.* (“the ‘691 patent”) in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,926,503 to McGee *et al.* (“the ‘503 patent”); claims 3 and 4 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over the ‘691 patent in view of the ‘503 patent, and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,511,288 to Gatley, Jr. (“the ‘288 patent”); and claims 5-7 and 13 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over the ‘691 patent in view of the ‘503 patent, further in view of the ‘288 patent, and further yet in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,904,141 to Estes *et al.* (“the ‘141 patent”). Applicants respectfully traverse these rejections at least for the reasons presented below.

Claims 1-7 and 13 have been canceled, thereby rendering their rejection moot. It is to be understood that these claims are being canceled to facilitate the allowance of the remaining claims. The cancellation of these claims is not to be construed as an admission as to the correctness of the rejections of these claims. On the contrary, applicants reserve the right to prosecute claims 1-7 and 13, or claims of similar scope, in a further continuing application.

Claims 8-12 and 14-20 stand objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim [Office Action, p. 4]. As suggested by the Examiner, claims 8 and 14 have been rewritten in independent form and include all of the limitations of the respective base claims. Claims 9-14

depend directly or indirectly from claim 8 and claims 15-20 depend directly or indirectly from claim 14. As such, claims 8-12 and 14-20 are in condition for allowance.

This response is being filed within the three-month statutory response period which expires on December 20, 2010. In addition, no additional claim fees are believed to be required as a result of the above amendments to the claims. Nevertheless, the Commission is authorized to charge any fee required under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 or 1.17 to deposit account no. 14-1270.

All objections and rejections have been addressed. It is respectfully submitted that the present application is in condition for allowance and a Notice to the effect is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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